

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4756

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1396

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, US, UR, UN

SUBJ: UNTSO OPERATIONS OFFICER POST

REF: A) USUN 5329; B) USUN 5346

1. WE FULLY SHARE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY SCHAUFLE IN CONVERSATION REPORTED REF B CONCERNING PREMATURE AND PERHAPS UNNECESSARY BOWING TO VAGUE SOVIET COMPLAINTS OF UNDUE AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN INTSO. IT WAS TO BE ANTICIPATED THAT SOVIETS, ONCE PARTICIPATING IN UNTSO, WOULD FOCUS ON FACT THAT US NATIONAL HOLDS IMPORTANT POST IN UNTSO HEADQUARTERS AND PRESS FOR "CORRECTION" OF WHAT THEY NO DOUBT VIEW AS "IMBALANCE". WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE UN, HOWEVER, NOT TO ACT HASTILY AND TO SEEK SOME MEANS, SUCH AS URQUHART SUGGESTION RE SOVIET POSITION AT ISMAILIA, THAT WOULD SATISFY SOVIETS WHILE RETAINING OPS OFFICER POSITION FOR US. IT MIGHT BE NOTED ALSO THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FROM UN STANDPOINT TO HAVE THIS KEY POST FILLED BY OFFICER WITH KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE, AND PERSPECTIVE THAT US INCUMBENT BRINGS TO THE JOB AND WHICH IT MIGHT BE CONSIDERABLY MORE DIFFICULT TO

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DUPLICATE WITH A "NEUTRAL STATE" OFFICER.

2. REGARDING ALLEGATIONS OF US INFLUENCE, THERE IS NOTHING WE KNOW OF IN HISTORY OF UNTSO OPERATION TO SUGGEST US HAS ACTUALLY INFLUENCED UNTSO OPERATION THROUGH ITS OFFICERS ON STAFF. IN FACT, THESE OFFICERS HAVE CUSTOMARILY SHOWN VIEWS AND JUDGMENTS MARKEDLY INDEPENDENT OF US POLICY. WE SHOULD BAT THIS CHARGE DOWN HARD, WHETHER SOVIETS REALLY BELIEVE IT OR NOT.

3. TO CORRECT RECORD WE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT, CONTRARY TO PARA 3 REF B, KRAWCIW NOT ONLY TRAVELS TO BOTH EGYPT AND SYRIA, BUT BY ALL REPORTS (INCLUDING FROM SIILASVUO) HAS DEVELOPED EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN OFFICIALS. (HE WAS EVEN, AT ONE POINT, INVITED TO ADDRESS EGYPTIAN WAR COLLEGE - INVITATION HE HAD TO DECLINE.) FYI ONLY: JUST LAST WEEK ACTING COFS BUNWORTH INFORMED SYRIANS IN DAMASCUS THAT HE PLANNED TO BRING KRAWCIW WITH HIM ON NEXT VISIT, TO ACCOMPANY HIM ON TOUR OF SYRIAN SIDE OF CEASEFIRE LINE. SYRIANS HAD NO OBJECTION. END FYI.

4. RE PARA 6 REF B, WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY CASE IN WHICH UNTSO OFFICER HAS WORN INSIGNIA LOWER THAN ACTUAL RANK. THERE HAVE BEEN OCCASIONAL CASES OF SUPERVISOR HAVING LOWER RANK THAN OFFICER UNDER HIS JURISDICTION AND THESE HAVE NORMALLY NOT CAUSED DIFFICULTY. IN CASE OF SIILAASVUO, IT IS OUR RECOLLECTION THAT HE HAD RANK OF COLONEL WHEN HOLDING DEPUTY COFS JOB IN UNTSO AND WAS PURPOSELY PROMOTED TO RANK OF GENERAL IN ANTICIPATION OF HIS APPOINTMENT AS COFS. WE WOULD SEE NO NEED FOR KRAWCIW'S REPLACEMENT TO WEAR INSIGNIA LOWER THAN ACTUAL RANK, BUT ALSO BELIEVE IT WOULD CAUSE NO PROBLEM IF HE IS ONLY MAJOR, RATHER THAN LIEUTENANT COLONEL, AT TIME OF TAKING UP UNTSO DUTIES. DAY

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